



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging flat objects (4), the method comprising the steps of:

continuously forming a quasi-endless web of a packaging material (7) into a string of bags (7') ~~that are open on~~ having three open sides and one closed on one side, wherein the three open sides comprise an opposite open side, opposite to the one closed side, and two lateral open sides,

conveying the string of bags in a conveying direction,
during conveyance, charging each of the bags (7') with at least one flat object (4),

severing the bags (7') from the string of bags, and
sealing the bags (7') by seams corresponding to the open bag sides,
wherein, during all method steps, ~~an~~ the opposite open side of the bags opposite to the one closed side and a corresponding seam keep a position that is independent of a format of the object to be packaged (4), and

wherein, at least one of a depth of the bags (7'), in the step of forming the string of bags, and a distance between two seams corresponding to the lateral open sides of the bag, in the step of sealing the bags, are adjusted to one of the format of

the object to be packaged (4) or to the width of the packaging material respectively,
and

wherein the bags (7') are sealed while positioned in conveying compartments
(3) rotating in the conveying direction, wherein the bags (7') are formed in or
supplied to the conveying compartments (3) and wherein the bags are charged with
the objects to be packaged (4) in the conveying compartments (3) or before the bags
are supplied to the conveying compartments (3).

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bags (7') are charged from above through the ~~one~~ opposite open side opposite the one closed side and are secured in an area of said opposite open side from before the steps of charging and severing to the step of sealing.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~3~~1, comprising the further steps of drawing the packaging material (7) to be formed into a string of bags into the rotating conveying compartments (3) by a plurality of drawing-in members (8.2), and, in the conveying compartment (3), securing each fully formed bag (7') in a region of its opposite open side ~~opposite its one closed side~~, and then withdrawing the drawing-in member (8.2) from the bag, wherein ~~the~~ a length of the drawing-in member (8.2) determines the depth of the bag (7').

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~3~~1, comprising the

further steps of forming the string of bags from the packaging material (7) by guides (8.7, 8.8) acting alternately from either side of the packaging material, said guides (8.7, 8.8) being driven to move in the conveying direction and to be spaced, relative to each other transverse to the conveying direction, a distance adjusted to the depth of the bags to be formed, and securing the bags (7') to alternate guides (8.7), charging the bags with objects (4) and positioning the bags in rotating conveying compartments (3) for sealing.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the packaging material (7) is a weldable plastic foil or sheet material and wherein sealing of the bags is accomplished by welding.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for packaging flat objects (4) using a packaging material (7) in the shape of a quasi-endless web, the device comprising:

means (5, 9) for supplying objects to be packaged (4) and for removing packaged objects (4'),

means (6) for supplying the packaging material (7),

means for forming, from the packaging material (7), a string of bags (7') that are open on have three open sides and one closed on one-side, wherein the three open sides comprise an opposite open side, opposite to the one closed side, and two lateral sides,

means for conveying the bags (7') in a conveying direction,

means for severing the bags (7') from the string of bags, and

means for sealing the open sides of the bags (7') by producing appropriate

seams,

wherein the means for forming the bags (7') and the means for conveying the bags (7') are arranged such that the opposite open side ~~opposite the one closed side of the bags and the~~ a corresponding seam keep an unchanged position independent of the format of the object to be packaged (4), and

wherein at least one of the means for forming the string of bags (7'), which adjusts a depth of the bags, and the means for sealing the bags (7'), which adjusts a distance between two lateral seams, is adjustable, and

wherein the means for forming the string of bags (7') comprises drawing-in members (8.2) of an adjustable length and cooperating with distal ends of rotating compartment elements (2), and wherein the securing elements (22) are arranged in conveying compartments (3) formed by the compartment elements (2).

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 7, wherein the means for conveying the bags (7') is designed and arranged such that, at least at a point of supply of the objects to be packaged (4), the bags (7') are positioned with their opposite open side ~~opposite the one closed side~~-facing upwards, and wherein the conveying means is equipped with securing elements (22, 27) for securing the bags (7') in the region of said opposite open side ~~opposite the one closed side~~.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9, wherein distal ends of the rotating compartment elements (2) and of the drawing-in members (2.1)

comprise freely rotating rollers (2.1).

11. (Currently Amended) A device for packaging flat objects (4) using a packaging material (7) in the shape of a quasi-endless web, the device comprising:

means (5, 9) for supplying objects to be packaged (4) and for removing packaged objects (4').

means (6) for supplying the packaging material (7).

means for forming, from the packaging material (7), a string of bags (7') that have three open sides and one closed side, wherein the three open sides comprise an opposite open side, opposite to the one closed side, and two lateral sides,

means for conveying the bags (7') in a conveying direction,

means for severing the bags (7') from the string of bags, and

means for sealing the open sides of the bags (7') by producing appropriate seams,

wherein the means for forming the bags (7') and the means for conveying the bags (7') are arranged such that the opposite open side and a corresponding seam keep an unchanged position independent of the format of the object to be packaged (4).

wherein at least one of the means for forming the string of bags (7'), which adjusts a depth of the bags, and the means for sealing the bags (7'), which adjusts a distance between two lateral seams, is adjustable~~The device according to claims 7,~~

wherein the means for forming the string of bags (7') comprises circulating guides (8.7, 8.8), wherein the guides are adapted to alternately act from two opposing sides of the packaging material (7) and to be displaced relative to each

other and transversely to a circulation direction, and wherein each alternate guide (8.7) is equipped with securing elements (27).

12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 11, wherein a circulation path of the guides (8.7) is aligned with a rotation path of the conveying compartments (3) such that the guides (8.7) are conveyed along a part of their path in a region of the distal ends of the compartment elements (2) that form the conveying compartments (3).

13. (Currently Amended) A device for packaging flat objects (4) using a packaging material (7) in the shape of a quasi-endless web, the device comprising:

means (5, 9) for supplying objects to be packaged (4) and for removing packaged objects (4').

means (6) for supplying the packaging material (7).

means for forming, from the packaging material (7), a string of bags (7') that have three open sides and one closed side, wherein the three open sides comprise an opposite open side, opposite to the one closed side, and two lateral sides,

means for conveying the bags (7') in a conveying direction,

means for severing the bags (7') from the string of bags, and

means for sealing the open sides of the bags (7') by producing appropriate seams,

wherein the means for forming the bags (7') and the means for conveying the bags (7') are arranged such that the opposite open side and a corresponding seam keep an unchanged position independent of the format of the object to be packaged

(4).

wherein at least one of the means for forming the string of bags (7'), which adjusts a depth of the bags, and the means for sealing the bags (7'), which adjusts a distance between two lateral seams, is adjustable~~The device according to claim 7,~~

wherein the rotating conveying compartments (3) are equipped with sealing elements (21.1, 21.2) that are moveable against each other in a controlled manner, wherein the sealing elements (21.1, 21.2) are adapted to produce three seams corresponding with the open sides of the bags, and wherein at least some of the sealing elements (21.1, 21.2) of each conveying compartment are simultaneously adjustable to various distances between lateral seams.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the conveying compartments (3) are positioned in a drum (1) that is rotatable around a drum axis (A).

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the drum (1) comprises a centrally arranged adjustment device (41), said adjustment device being adapted to simultaneously adjust the sealing elements (21.1, 21.2) of all the conveying compartments (3).

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the means (5) for supplying the objects (4) is arranged in the region of an upper zenith of the drum (1), the means for supplying the packaging material (7) or the string of bags is immediately upstream of the means (5) for supplying the objects (4), and the means

(9) for discharging the packaged objects (4') are arranged in a lower region of the drum (1).